

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, and reconsideration of the Office Action dated July 2, 2003 (Paper No. 5). Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-10 will remain pending in this application. No new matter is incorporated by this Amendment.

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Claims 1 and 2 are amended hereby. These amendments, however, are strictly editorial and do not reduce the scope of the original claims. These amendments are not necessary to address any question of patentability.

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The drawings were objected to because Figures 8 and 9 were considered to lack the designation --Prior Art--. In response, Applicants submit herewith a Letter With Proposed Drawings Corrections and an amended version of each of Figures 8 and 9. The amended versions of Figure 8 and 9 both include the --Prior Art-- designation. Accordingly, the objection is overcome and reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

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Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly obvious based on Proehl et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,532,589) in view of Shaheen et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,374,109). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In the Office Action, it was asserted that Proehl teaches every feature of the claimed invention except for determining whether the frequency band of the reserved program can be allocated. It was further asserted that Shaheen discloses whether the frequency band of the reserved program can be allocated. It was thus concluded in the Office Action that it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Proehl and Shaheen to arrive at the claimed invention.

Applicants' invention, as described in independent claim 1, concerns a resource reservation management apparatus for an AV network that manages equipment resources connected to the network. The apparatus includes frequency band information processing means for acquiring frequency band information of the broadcast program and frequency band resource management means for performing time management of the frequency band resource of the AV network by using a resource reservation management table. As pertains to these elements of Applicants' claimed apparatus, Applicants submit that Proehl, to those of ordinary skill in the art, teaches no more than obtaining channel information such as the channel number, channel name, logo ID, and data ID. *See Column 5, Lines 35-55*. In practice, Applicants' arrangement also is concerned with locating a channel (an idle channel-*see, for instance, Applicants' specification at page 12, second full paragraph*). However, in contrast to the apparatus of Proehl, the present invention distinguishes between channel information and frequency band (bandwidth) information, and, as described in the claims, controls according to bandwidth information. Proehl neither teaches nor fairly suggests obtaining frequency band information.

Shaheen fails to remedy the deficiencies of Proehl described above. Applicants' invention has a frequency band information processing means for acquiring the frequency band information of the broadcast program. In contrast, Shaheen's apparatus reserves a particular frequency band (i.e. 800 MHz). Shaheen neither teaches nor fairly suggests acquiring the frequency band information of a particular broadcast program. Hence, even if properly combinable (and Applicants do not admit that Proehl and Shaheen are properly combinable), the teachings of Proehl and Shaheen fail to teach or fairly suggest the claimed invention. Moreover, Applicants see nothing in the combined teachings of the cited prior art which would provide sufficient motivation to those of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Proehl and Shaheen and arrive at the claimed invention.

The above remarks overcome this rejection. Hence, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

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Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment and the above remarks obviate the outstanding objection and rejection in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited.

If any fees under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033216.047.

If an extension of time under 37 CFR § 1.136 is necessary that is not accounted for in the papers filed herewith, such an extension is requested. The extension fee should be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-4300; Order No. 033216.047.

Respectfully submitted,

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